



News for members , Mineral King District Association, from the Action Committee, June 1994

We're still on the uphill trail, scouting ten more ways to the top.... and thank all of you who have hiked up to help.

Since last fall, Jim Ingram, President of Mineral King District Association; Les Reynolds, immediate Past President, and Mark Bissiri, have met with Park personnel. At least twenty cabin owners have attended meetings and/or helped. Jim and we have exchanged letters with Park Service officials, the Sierra Club and Congressmen, and have arranged meetings with key Congressmen. We met twice in Visalia, met with Congressman Lehman's staff on three occasions, with Congressman Thomas' staff, with Congressman Lehman once, and, another time, with Congressman DeFazio.

Our hopes, to remedy the "eviction clause" have been explained and understood.

A careful consideration of strategies, with strong help from Congressman Lehman's office, has led the Action Committee to think about ten "partial remedies," any one of which could postpone or delay eviction. The Action Committee will be pursuing those alternatives until January of '95, at least, and will look again, at that time, at the need for Congress to change the law and delete the eviction clause.

We are testing the feasibility of each of those partial, (or delaying,) remedies. Please ask Jim or Les, or other Action Committee members, for more information. (Their names are on a separate page, here.)

Be Prepared with practical suggestions, if the Park Service asks you where additional campsites should be located. The present Management Plan gives the Park authority, among other things, to expand the number of campsites.

Some of us saw Mineral King for the first time as campers. Many of us have enjoyed sharing the area and, sometimes, our cabins, with campers and hikers. We've seen many uses, and many users, of Mineral King since the miners pulled stakes.

Perhaps, soon, we'll be invited to comment, or to make some useful suggestions?

Our Annual Meeting and Potluck is Saturday , August 6
Please watch for more details soon from your Mineral King District Association.

Alert! A Mineral King Area Management Plan is supposed to be used by the Park Service for policy guidelines, workplans, and administration. It governs the conditions which greet visitors of all kinds to Mineral King, including cabin-owners and their guests. *The plan which is currently in use can, and may be, changed.* (The rumbles we hear at this time may not be thunder in the back country.)

However, the public must be given reasonable advanced notice and opportunities to review any proposed changes or a new plan.

Please do three things this month:

- 1) Please...each cabinowner **and** family member who cares.....familiarize yourself with the current Plan by reading it entirely. (It's only a few pages long.) and
- 2) Make sure that you and your family are notified of any change in plan and notified of any opportunity to review and comment on a proposed plan.

To request a copy of the present Management Plan for Mineral King, and notification of intent to change any part of it, write to : The Acting Superintendent, Sequoia Nat'l Park, Three Rivers, California, 93271-9700 .

- 3) On your (short) letter making those two requests, (and no matter where you live,) please indicate that you are sending a copy to your Congressman..and **send** it to that Congressman!

And if you should spot an owl.....

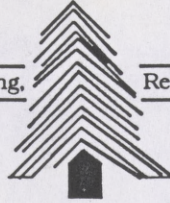
Lack of dollars to improve poor and deteriorating road conditions..especially along the Generals Highway, and to correct problems with wastewater treatment plants, were the chief reasons why Sequoia and King Canyon National Parks were rated "near bottom" in comparative evaluations which were made this year of Parks across the country. The reviews were made by Park Superintendents.

Meanwhile, nationally, future, appropriate, or *compatible* human use of Parks is being discussed in Political Altitudes that are well above "timber line;" the number of employees in National Parks is being "down-sized" everywhere, including Mineral King; and Sequoia Park will be administered by one and then another Acting Superintendent for awhile, until a new Superintendent is named.(The Mineral King District Association is requesting that a representative of

cabin owners be part of the Interview Panel when a new Superintendent is chosen.)

Cooperation with Park officials and compliance with the law have always been important to those of us in Mineral King who use Park property with *permission*, (perhaps even more important for us than for those more fortunate, who *own* their land, as in Silver City, or for those who are buying property on which they will build new cabins.)

This summer, even as you should spot an owl, come across a cougar, boggle at a bear, mistrust a marmot (or several thousand of them,) your cooperation and compliance with Park rules and personnel will reinforce and continue our long history of compatible use of the valley, *At this time, the work of the Action Committee will go more smoothly if each Mineral King cabin owner maintains our good record with the Park Service.*



NEWSLETTER JUNE 1994

MINERAL KING BULLETINS courtesy of NPS Chiefs

TREES REMOVED. *The NPS has removed around 100 trees along the road corridor in the interest of public safety. These trees were identified as posing a hazzard to travelers. You may notice their absence. They were removed only after careful consideration.*

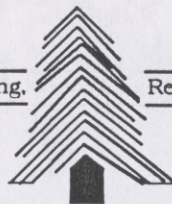
RIVER LOW. *Expected runoff this year is about 50% of normal.*

COLD SPRINGS. *Host duties will remain in the same capable and friendly hands this year -- rumor has it.*

MARMOTS BELLY UP. *An arrest has been made and charges lodged. Several Marmots were found near the "Sawtooth Trail" Parking area. An individual, not associated with the MKDA I am happy to report, used some type of poison "pellets" placed around their parked car.*

LINDA WALLACE *will be heading up the valley ranger functions this year. Linda has been with us for a number of years now and will without doubt provide good continuity for NPS policy in the valley. Rodger Blain has moved on to other duties and areas (he took his llamas with him we understand) In case your wondering, Llamas can carry packs of 60 odd pounds and have trail compatable padded feet.*

AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT *is in the process regarding a new location for the pack station. This year is likely to be the last for Don Bedell as concessionair. Potential new sites to be considered include the old Burchell site. You might expect to be asked for your input as you engage NPS staff.*



TWO DISTRICTS NOW. *When a new superintendant is appointed he will preside over the Sequoia District, of which Mineral King is a part, and the Kings Canyon District. There were three, but in consonance with the current climate of downsizing and consolidating NPS, wide there are now two.*

CONTROLLED BURNS *are again slated for the end of this summer season (Aug or Sept) weather permitting. The wisdom of this practice was borne out when a recent lightning storm, Memorial Day weekend, resulted in some ignition. At least one fire fizzled when it traveled into an area which had been previously "burned". Areas to be burned will be chosen from a list of potential sites when weather and conditions are considered favorable.*

MOUNTAIN LIONS, *be aware, are known to have a presence in the valley again this year.*

MK DISTRICT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

ANNUAL MEETING *will be held on the traditional first Saturday in August, AUGUST 6, 1994.*

DUES ET AL. *Please take the time to find the enclosed form, fill out the few required items and return with your check to Les Reynolds. we need your help to defray our expenses, particularly this year. If you know anyone who might like to become a NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBER, and get on our mailing list, feel free to copy the form and give them a copy.*

AN APPRAISAL *of the value of holding a cabin permit will be done by a professional appraiser this summer, we were informed by Ash Mountain. Probable timing is mid-summer. Impact is unknown, but you will no doubt be inclined to speculate concerning the direction of the outcome.*